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U.S. Suffered 'Great Loss' In Embassy

Weinberger Orders Probe of Security

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Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said yesterday that the United States suffered "a very great loss" from Soviet agents rooting through secret areas of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow under an arrangement allegedly permitted by two Marine Corps guards.

"We're very, very distressed," Weinberger said in an interview on the Cable News Network, referring to what military prosecutors have described as a secrets-for-sex operation at the embassy. Pentagon officials said the U.S. military services have launched individual investigations to determine which of their secret activities may have been compromised at the embassy in this latest spy scandal, Defense Department officials said yesterday.

Several military officials said it is unlikely that the two accused Marines had access to all sensitive parts of the embassy; also, security clearances are compartmentalized to make it difficult for persons of low rank, such as Marine guards, to learn more than fragments about secret operations and equipment.

"It's not another Walker case," said one source familiar with the preliminary assessment. Former Navy radioman John A. Walker Jr.,

now in prison, was convicted of selling some of the nation's most important secrets, including submarine communications tactics, to the Soviets through a spy ring that operated for years.

Weinberger said the Defense Department would investigate not only the two accused Marines and their actions, "but the whole system" for providing security at U.S. embassies. The inquiry, he said, would examine how the 1,300 Marine embassy guards posted around the world are chosen and trained, "and the way the Soviets will continually try to subvert them."

Marine Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, 25, and Cpl. Arnold Bracy, 21, allegedly were involved sexually with two Soviet women who worked at the embassy. They allegedly facilitated Soviet espionage there between January and March of 1986. Both men are in Marine custody.

Lonetree and Bracy allowed Soviets to "peruse" such secret facilities as the room where messages and encoded and decoded, according to military prosecutors. Lone-

tree allegedly escorted Soviet spies through the embassy while Bracy stood as a lookout.

The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps have launched internal inquiries, Pentagon officials said, to determine what they might have lost through the Soviet penetration. One of the first things that must be done, sources said, is to determine what secret publications and sensitive technology Lonetree and Bracy had access to.

The damage assessment by the military services is expected to be finished by midweek, sources said. The specialists assume the worst in this first look, sources said, and then make a more realistic damage assessment as more is learned about what Lonetree, Bracy and the Soviets did inside the embassy. The preliminary findings, sources said, suggest that this latest Soviet intelligence breach is not of monumental proportions.

Marine Corps investigators also have studied the records of all the Marines who served with Lonetree and Bracy, sources said, and found no evidence that the activity went beyond the two Marines in custody.